

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the month of April as "Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month" in my home state of Illinois. The 8th Congressional District is home to many Sikh-Americans and Sikh faithful, and I wish to recognize their valuable contributions to my district and to our state and country. I believe this recognition is especially timely, given the disturbing rise in hate crimes and violent acts perpetrated against Sikh-Americans, most recently on April 15, 2021 at a Federal Express facility located in Indianapolis.

The first followers of the Sikh religion emigrated to the United States over 125 years ago, where they found work on farms located in California and in the lumber mills of Washington state. Despite suffering persecution and discrimination, these patriotic Sikh-Americans persevered and found ways to participate in civic life, including service in the United States Army. In 1918, Sergeant Bhagat Singh Thind was the first serviceman in the history of the United States Army allowed to wear a turban as part of his military uniform. Sikh-Americans continued to proudly serve with distinction in the Second World War, Korean War, Vietnam War and in our conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In addition to military service, Sikh-Americans have made countless contributions to our common good. They include scientists like Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany, who is widely known as the "father of fiber optic technology," and Dr. Gurtej Singh Sandhu, one of the world's most prolific inventors. They include artists and musicians like Grammy nominee Snam Kaur Khalsa, and activist and award-winning filmmaker Valarie Kaur. They include entrepreneurs like Waris Ahluwalia, an actor, model and businessman. And they include men and women called to public service, like Dalip Singh Saund, who in 1957 became the first Asian-American, Indian-American and member of a non-Abrahamic faith to be elected to serve in this House of Representatives.

As revealed by Guru Nanak and the Adi Granth, Sikhism teaches that there is only one God, that God is without form or gender, that we are all equal before God, and that a good life is lived as part of a community and expressed by good deeds and not merely by good thoughts. These tenets of service and respect for the rights and dignity of all stand in painful contrast to the recent vile speech and acts of violence directed at Sikh communities. Madam Speaker, during this month of appreciation for Sikh Americans, I want to officially recognize the contributions of the more than 700,000 members of the United States Sikh community to business, the arts, science, medicine, literature and philosophy. Addition-

ally, I ask all Americans to take to heart the Sikh religion's belief in the sanctity of each person, respect for freedom of religion, and creed that community service is the foundation for living a good life.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT MARK SZYMANKIEWICZ

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Mark Szymankiewicz of the Woodhaven Police Department. His honorable years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Sergeant Szymankiewicz retired on April 9, 2021 after serving over two decades with the Woodhaven Police Department. A graduate of Lake Superior State and Eastern Michigan University, Sergeant Szymankiewicz was a valued leader and mainstay of the department since August of 1999 when he began his career as a patrol officer with the unit. Assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2017, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on March 18, 2019.

Since 2004, he has mentored students interested in a career in law enforcement through the Woodhaven Police Explorers program. Sergeant Szymankiewicz also served on the board of the Michigan Law Enforcement Youth Advisory Committee. Active in service on duty and off, he served on the Woodhaven Police Department Honor Guard.

A lifelong resident of Downriver, he was raised in Brownstown Township, Michigan by Tony and Crystal along with his brothers Dennis and Steve. Dedicated to the community where he was born and raised, Sergeant Szymankiewicz still lives in Brownstown Township today with his son Jake.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Mark Szymankiewicz for a career of invaluable service to the Woodhaven Police Department. I join with Sergeant Szymankiewicz's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his exemplary and honorable service to our community and thank him for his role in serving the City of Woodhaven for the past two decades.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, on April 21, 2021, I missed one Roll Call vote. Had I been present I would have voted: NO on Roll Call Vote 128, On Motion to Recommit for H.R. 1573.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN FRANCIS GORITY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend John Francis GORITY, who passed away on April 12, at the age of 74.

Throughout his life, John devoted himself to our nation and our community. A veteran of the Vietnam War, John was awarded a purple heart after being wounded in the line of duty. After returning home to Blair County, John worked tirelessly to serve local veterans. In addition to serving as Post Commander of the Altoona Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3, John was also a member of Catholic War Veterans, the American Legion's Gallitzin Chapter, and Disabled American Veterans.

A 1965 graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle High School, John continued his education at Penn State University, where he studied business administration. As a businessman, he owned and operated Broadway Sharpening and GORITY Cabinetry for more than 30 years.

John was a staple of the Blair County Community. In addition to his work with local veterans, John also served as a leader of the Blair County Historical Society, Open Doors for the Handicapped, Eastern Amputee Golf Association, Fire Base Eagle, and Bravo Company.

As a community leader, John Francis GORITY exemplified a life of service to our nation and to his neighbors. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, it is my privilege to honor John for his many contributions. I extend my deepest condolences to John's devoted wife Donna, their two daughters, and four grandchildren as they mourn this great loss.

H.R. 51, THE WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, for the second time in two years, the House will vote to end centuries of political repression in the District of Columbia by granting the District statehood.

For too long Congress has denied more than 712,000 Americans in the District the fundamental right to full representation in government. Today we say no more.

All 37 states that have been added to the union were admitted by legislation with a simple majority vote. There is no reason admitting the District should be any different.

The United States is a republic, but the people of its capital lack representation. The

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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